

RED CROSS FEEDS HUNGRY SAMMEES

Society Women Serve Sandwiches and Coffee at Base Canteen

WORK TO BE EXTENDED

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AMERICAN FIELD HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Sept. 27

Upon the ancient glass and age-stained gargoyle of a thirteenth century church the harvest moon threw weird shadows. Two correspondents picked their way along a blackened street in a city within the army zone. There was silence everywhere. Now and then a faint light through the cracks of a shutter indicated life within the houses passed upon the way. It was nearly midnight, and after 8 o'clock, this city, as all others and indeed villages throughout the zone of the army, was in darkness.

Three times during an hour's walk we passed potters of France, their hobnailed shoes echoing upon the cobbled way. A turn in the street revealed the outline of a viaduct and beyond it railroad tracks and the vague form of a station. The street here took a sharp down grade, and as we descended we came upon a French sentry, who mechanically saluted. Entering the wide door, through which we could see a smoking oil lamp hanging upon a grimy wall, we passed to a vast waiting room where a similar light revealed a hundred forms huddled in sleeping postures upon hard benches. They were soldiers in horizon blue, with a few peasant women waiting for early morning trains to take them to their destination. We passed out and to the platform of the station, where, after stumbling over piles of cinders and the whole paraphernalia of a battalion of French infantry, we saw an open door. It was wide and barred by a canvas curtain weighted at the bottom with an iron rod, thus permitting brilliant lighting within and throwing but faint shadow without.

Entering, we found ourselves in the first American Red Cross base canteen in France, only recently opened, and which we were told would never be closed at any hour of the day or night during the war, even until the last American Sammee returns from the trenches after final victory over the Boche.

The room was crowded with Sammees, several hundreds of them. Their kits lay about in bundles and heaps in corners. They were en route from one point in the zone to another, and their train would pull out in an hour. Meanwhile they were forming in rows before a white tiled counter with their mess kits in hand. Behind the counter were gentle-faced American women in white caps, embroidered with the cross of red, and great white aprons. As fast as lightning they were pouring coffee and handing out sandwiches of white bread and sliced ham to the khaki clad. There was the silent rumbling of many voices and the steady munching of food with the occasional touch of cup to lip.

POLLUS INVITED IN

A French troop train passed and stopped beyond the station for one of the inextinguishable waits common to the transfer of fighting men along the line. In a few moments the pollu territorialists from the train looked within the canvas-covered door and were at once invited to take part in the refreshments offered. They entered in a silent wonder and mechanically took coffee as it was handed them. But their eyes opened wide when they saw that the sandwiches given them were of really, truly white bread, for white bread in France, aside from the product of American army bakeries, is a rarity indeed.

Presently the French troop train whistled and the pollus departed with many thanks expressed in many ways. And then the Sammees were given order to fall in and entrain. In thirty minutes the canteen was deserted save for us two men and the white-haired women.

Instinctively we saluted them as we heard their tale and their names. Names are taboo in connection with correspondence from the army, but the rule applies only to the brown-clad, be he private or colonel or brigadier general. But these women from home do not come under the ban. Also, they have had their names in many a paper before, but always in the society columns. Here, "somewhere in France," as simple waitresses, it would seem to me, they should stand out in bolder type and in nobler connection than when associated with teas or receptions or balls or any society function.

For they have packed away their evening gowns and left them at home in exchange for the white uniform of the American Red Cross, voluntarily exchanging comfort for the hardships and inconveniences connected with humbly serving food and drink to the Sammee from over the sea, or the pollu from the North and the MID. They are patriotically performing their share in the great adventure, and it goes without saying that their work is appreciated to the extreme by the American army, individually and collectively.

All over the zone these canteens are to be established. In every part of it, before and during the days of fighting to come, the American women, with others still to arrive, will be on the job, early and late, always with the smile of welcome and the word of cheer for the fighting man from America.

NAMES FOR SOCIAL CALENDARS

In this canteen I found names known in all society circles in the United States. From Philadelphia there are Mrs. Sophie Norris, Mary Scott Montgomery and Henrietta Ely; Misses Margery Nott, Anna Mitchell, Ruth Carroll, Mrs. Emma Sward and Mrs. John Corbin come from New York; Miss Sara Cogswell, from New France; and Mrs. Boyd Herrick, from Minneapolis, to mention a few.

I was told that before the end of the year thirty of these canteens will be in operation, and that the Red Cross will build and equip, in addition, a series of dormitories where thousands of men can find clean cots for the asking. There are to be also more shower baths than ever France heard of before, with barber shops, clothes sterilizing plants and bombproof movies. Everything will be free, including coffee and sandwiches for troops coming or going to destinations.



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RE VITTORIO E ORLANDO ALLA FRONTE ITALIANA

30,000 Austro-Tedeschi Rimasero Uccisi nell'Attacco contro l'Altipiano di Bainsizza

IL NEMICO E' ARRESTATO

Centinaia di Ufficiali Italiani Convalescenti Negli Ospedali Chiedono di Essere Inviati alla Fronte

ROMA, 2 Novembre.

Il Re Vittorio Emanuele ed il presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri, onorevole Orlando, sono oggi giunti alla fronte di battaglia.

Le notizie che giungono sono sempre piu' confortanti e la situazione alla nostra fronte puo' dirsi ristabilita normalmente. I contingenti di truppe anglo-francesi mandati in rinforzo dell'esercito italiano sono giunti sulla nuova linea di difesa del Tagliamento e fraternizzano con i combattenti italiani. E' stato ufficialmente annunciato che la ritirata delle truppe italiane sul Tagliamento si e' compiuta regolarmente al coperto delle retroguardie e della cavalleria che valorosamente hanno saputo tener testa al nemico, riuscendo ad arrestare l'avanzata delle forze austro-tedesche.

Anche gli aviatori italiani sono stati instancabili ed efficacemente contribuirono ad arrestare le orde austro-tedesche. Ecco il testo del comunicato del generale Cadorna, pubblicato ieri dal Ministero della Guerra Italiano:

Sconvolgendo il piano del nemico con rapidita' del loro movimento, brillantemente decisi e con la valorosa resistenza dei nostri contingenti di retroguardia, i quali hanno ritardata l'avanzata austro-tedesca, le nostre truppe hanno ordinatamente ultimata la loro ritirata sulle posizioni del Tagliamento, nonostante i difficili condizioni strategiche e logistiche incontrate.

La Terza Armata e' quasi al completo, esempio mirabile di forza e compattezza. La prima e seconda Divisione di cavalleria, e specialmente gli eroici reggimenti "Novara" e "Genova", e l'instancabile corpo degli aviatori, vanno segnalati all'ammirazione ed alla gratitudine del paese.

Durante la scorsa notte aeroplani nemici bombardarono alcune abitazioni nei centri abitati indifesi, lontanissimi dalle linee di comunicazione, facendo della vittima tra la popolazione civile.

Secondo personalita' competenti la situazione militare all'Altipiano di Bainsizza non e' disperata. Presentemente ravviti dalla prima sorpresa e con il pronto aiuto degli Alleati gli italiani al fronte, senza dubbio, ad opporre una furiosa resistenza al nemico nel punto scelto da Cadorna.

Quantunque un certo numero di italiani sia stato preso prigioniero purtuttavia la forza delle armate del generale Cadorna non e' indebolita. Non bisogna dimenticare che l'Italia ha sotto le armi piu' di tre milioni di uomini e con i puri i cannoni che gli austro-tedeschi dicono di aver catturato non rappresentano altro che la produzione di poche settimane nelle fabbriche di munizioni degli Alleati.

L'Armata Italiana e' praticamente intatta. Intanto le truppe francesi ed inglesi sono in parte giunte alla fronte italiana ed e' stato annunciato che il consiglio dei ministri francesi, in una riunione tenutasi domenica ha preso tutte le necessarie misure per l'immediato aiuto alla fronte italiana, ma non e' stata palesata l'estensione e la natura della cooperazione degli Alleati alla detta fronte. La stessa questione fu anche considerata, lunedì mattina in un consiglio del Comitato di Guerra con la presenza del Presidente Poincare.

Anche il governo inglese ha preso immediata misure per l'aiuto agli italiani, e tutto indica che i rinforzi francesi ed inglesi sono giunti in tempo prima che le forze austro-tedesche completassero l'invasione della pianura di Friuli. Intanto, nell'attesa degli eventi, l'opinione pubblica, attraverso la gravita' dell'ora e l'angoscia del colpo subito si mantiene calma e ferma.

La stampa unanimemente ritiene che la prossima battaglia sara' l'ultima grande battaglia della guerra.

Si calcola che gli austro-tedeschi rimasti uccisi nella prima giornata dei loro attacchi contro le posizioni italiane sull'Altipiano di Bainsizza ammontino a trenta

mila. Fra i morti si troverebbero due generali comandanti di divisione.

La stampa austro-tedesca che il disastro sull'Isone ha oppresso in Italia tutti gli antagonisti politici e che tutti vogliono respinto l'invasore. Tutta la riserva di truppe e di materiale da guerra sono state utilizzate per scopi militari.

Centinaia di ufficiali convalescenti negli ospedali hanno fatto immediata domanda per essere inviati alla fronte di battaglia. Soltanto a Roma queste domande arrivarono ad ottocento.

I corrispondenti di guerra constatano che la Terza Armata italiana con i suoi cannoni e materiale e' in salvo, pronta per la futura battaglia. L'avanzata austro-tedesca e' stata arrestata, anzi dicono e la concentrazione delle truppe italiane nei piani del veneto procede senza confusione.

STATE REPORTS CORN CROP ABOVE TEN-YEAR AVERAGE

Rye and Oats Production Increased and Potatoes Normal in October, Department Shows

HARRISBURG, Nov. 2.—The bulletin of the State Department of Agriculture, in reviewing the corn crop conditions, says that twenty-five counties report indications of a better crop than the average for the last ten years. The prospects for the State at large in the matter of the corn crop are given as 95 per cent, as compared with 85 per cent at this time last year. The production of shelled corn for the last year averaged thirty-seven bushels.

The bulletin says that the average production of rye to the acre in Pennsylvania in 1917 was 17.3 bushels, as compared with 16.5 bushels last year, and oats 35.6 bushels, as compared to 31. Lancaster led in production and Delaware in oats. The quality of oats is above that of last year. The potato crop is said to have stood at the average of ten years early in October.

Receivers for Water Company

WILMINGTON, Del., Nov. 2.—Charles Currier has appointed Herbert H. Ward, Jr., of this city, and James S. Glassmeyer, of Reading, receivers for the Delaware Water Improvement Company. This company supplies water to the town of New Castle and some of the lighting. The stockholders declared it was insolvent and that action was necessary to save the company.

Tons of Tomatoes Rotting in the Road

MERCHANTVILLE, N. J., Nov. 2.—Many tons of tomatoes are lying along the Colestown road and between Colestown and Vincentown, thrown there by persons who could not sell them to the cannery to which they were sent. On the Lippincott farm they are several hundred tons of tomatoes that were not pulled because of a lack of transportation facilities.

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